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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended): A reactive dye compound comprising:
 - (a) at least one chromophore moiety;
 - (b) at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle;
 - (c) a linking group to link each chromophore moiety to each nitrogen-containing heterocycle; and

characterized in that at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle is substituted with at least one Y group wherein Y is derived from a hydrated aldehyde, a hydrated ketone, a hydrated alpha-hydroxy ketone, or the hydrated form of formic acid and linked via one of its oxygen atoms to the nitrogen-containing heterocycle thereby forming a hemiacetal.

2. (Original): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is derived from a hydrated form of an aldehyde or ketone or the hydrated form of formic acid.
3. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is derived from the hydrated form of a reducing sugar selected from an aldose or a ketose, or the hydrated form of formic acid.
4. (Original): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 3 wherein said aldose is selected from an aldotriose, an aldotetrose, an aldopentose, an aldohexose, an aldohexose, an aldohexose and an aldooctose, and mixtures thereof.

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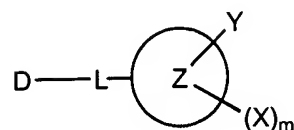
5. (Original): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 4 wherein said aldose is an aldopentose selected from ribose, xylose, arabinose, deoxyribose and fructose, and mixtures thereof.
6. (Original): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 5 wherein said aldose is an aldohexose selected from glucose, galactose, talose, mannose, altrose, allose and rhamnose, and mixtures thereof.
7. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is derived from glucose, sucrose or fructose or the hydrated form of formic acid.
8. (Original): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 3 wherein said ketose is selected from an aldotetrol, an aldopentulose, an aldohexulose, an aldohexulose, and an aldooctulose, and mixtures thereof.
9. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y is $-O-(CHOH)_4(CHOHCH_2OH)$.
10. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is selected from triazine, pyrimidine, quinoxaline, phthalazine, pyridazine and pyrazine.
11. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is selected from triazine, pyrimidine or quinoxaline.

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12. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is selected from triazine and pyrimidine.
13. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the linking group is selected from NR, N(C=O)R, N(SO₂)R where R is selected from H or C1-C4 alkyl which can be substituted by halo, hydroxy, cyano, C1-C4 alkoxy, C2-C5 alkoxy carbonyl, carboxyl, sulfamoyl, sulfo and sulfato.
14. (Original): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 13 wherein the linking group is NR.
15. (Previously presented): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 14 wherein R is H or C1-C4 alkyl.
16. (Currently amended): A reactive dye compound according to Claim 1 wherein the nitrogen-containing heterocycle is additionally substituted with one or more X substituents, wherein X is independently selected from Y, thio-derivatives, halogen (preferably fluorine and chlorine), amines, alkoxy groups, carboxylic acid groups, CN, N₃, quaternized nitrogen derivatives, (Q⁺)_n and oxy- or thio- carbonyl derivatives having the formula -A(CO)R* wherein A is selected from O or S, where R* is an organic residue which contains at least one nucleophilic group, wherein the nucleophilic group is preferably selected from OH, NH₂, SH, COOH, -N=, NHR¹ and NR¹R² wherein R¹ and R² may be the same or different and may be selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl, preferably Y or halogen.

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17. (Currently amended): A reactive dye having the formula (I):



wherein D is a chromophore group;

~~L, Z, Y, X are as defined above~~

L is a linking moiety selected from NR, N(C=O)R, N(SO₂)R;

R is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl which can be substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₂-C₅ alkoxy carbonyl, carboxyl, sulfamoyl, sulfo, sulfato;

Z is a nitrogen-containing heterocycle;

Y is derived from a hydrated aldehyde, a hydrated ketone, a hydrated alpha-hydroxy ketone, or the hydrated form of formic acid and linked via one of its oxygen atoms to the nitrogen-containing heterocycle thereby forming a hemiacetal;

X is selected from Y (i.e. bis-saccharide compounds), thio-derivatives, halogen (preferably fluorine and chlorine), amines, alkoxy groups, carboxylic acid groups, CN, N₃, quaternized nitrogen derivatives (Q⁺) and oxy- or thio- carbonyl derivatives having the formula -A(CO)R* wherein A is selected from O or S, where R* is an organic residue which contains at least one nucleophilic group, wherein the nucleophilic group is preferably selected from OH, NH₂, SH, COOH, -N=, NHR¹ and NR¹R²

wherein R¹ and R² may be the same or different and may be selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl; and

m is an integer of from 1 to 4;

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and salts and esters thereof.

18. (Currently amended): ~~Use of a compound according to Claim 1 for dyeing cellulosic substrates.~~ A method of dyeing a cellulosic substrate, comprising contacting the cellulosic substrate with a compound according to Claim 1.
19. (Currently amended): ~~Use of a compound according to Claim 1 for dyeing wool.~~ A method of dyeing wool, comprising contacting the wool with a compound according to Claim 1.
20. (Currently amended): ~~Use of a compound according to Claim 1 for dyeing polyamide substrates.~~ A method of dyeing a polyamide substrate, comprising contacting the polyamide substrate with a compound according to Claim 1.
21. (Currently amended): ~~Use of a compound according to Claim 1 for dyeing silk.~~ A method of dyeing silk, comprising contacting the silk with a compound according to Claim 1.
22. (Currently amended): ~~Use of a compound according to Claim 1 for dyeing keratin.~~ A method of dyeing keratin, comprising contacting the keratin with a compound according to Claim 1.

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23. (Currently amended): ~~Use of a compound according to Claim 1 for dyeing leather.~~ A method of dyeing leather, comprising contacting the leather with a compound according to Claim 1.
24. (Previously presented): Process for the preparation of a compound according to Claim 1 comprising the steps of reacting a first starting material with a second starting material, the first starting material comprising at least one chromophore, at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle linked to the chromophore via a linking group L, the second starting material being a compound containing a Y group.
25. (Original): Process according to Claim 24 wherein the reducing sugar is selected from sucrose, glucose and mixtures thereof.
26. (Previously presented): Process according to Claim 24 wherein the process is carried out at a pH of from about 2 to about 8.
27. (Previously presented): Process according to Claim 24 wherein the second starting material is added to the first starting material slowly.
28. (Previously presented): Product obtainable by the process according to Claim 24.
29. (Currently amended): A dye composition comprising the compound of Claim 1 ~~or the product of Claim 24.~~
30. (Original): A dye composition according to Claim 29 wherein the composition is in the form of a solid mixture and further comprises an acid or neutral buffer.

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31. (Original): A dye composition according to Claim 29 wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid and further comprises water and an acid or neutral buffer.
32. (Original): A dye composition according to Claim 29 wherein the composition is in the form of a paste and further comprises water, thickening agent and an acid or neutral buffer.
33. (Previously presented): A dye composition according to Claim 29 wherein the pH of the composition is in the range of from about 2 to about 5, when an acidic buffer is present, and in the range of from about 4 to about 8, when a neutral buffer is present.

Please add the following new claims:

34. (New): A dye composition comprising the product of Claim 24.
35. (New): A dye composition according to Claim 34 wherein the composition is in the form of a solid mixture and further comprises an acid or neutral buffer.
36. (New): A dye composition according to Claim 34 wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid and further comprises water and an acid or neutral buffer.

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37. (New): A dye composition according to Claim 34 wherein the composition is in the form of a paste and further comprises water, thickening agent and an acid or neutral buffer.
38. (New): A dye composition according to Claim 34 wherein the pH of the composition is in the range of from about 2 to about 5, when an acidic buffer is present, and in the range of from about 4 to about 8, when a neutral buffer is present.